

Comstock Era Life featured at Historical Lecture Series

The Historical Society of Dayton Valley celebrates Comstock era history that began in 1849 with Nevada's first gold find at the mouth of Gold Canyon, today's Dayton.

Each May, the state's Historic Preservation Office focuses on Nevada's history during Historical Preservation and Archaeology Month – this year's theme is “trails.”

Lectures are free with refreshments available and begin at 7 p.m. at the Dayton Senior Center, 320 Old Dayton Valley Road, on May 5, 12 and 19.

The annual May Lecture series begins Thursday, May 5, featuring Archaeologist Mike Drews, Gnomon, Inc., depicting Comstock Era life identified with artifacts found during an excavation at Half Way House, an 1860-1887 Way Station, hotel, residence and tollgate located east of Mound House. It was half way between Carson City and Virginia City, linking the two towns through the McDonald and Bedford Toll Road, one of the numerous toll roads that connected Dayton with other Comstock towns and California's gold country.

The Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the Virginia & Truckee Railway funded the excavation of the site located under the railroad grade near the new bridge crossing at US Highway 50 at Mound House.

- On May 12, Larry Schmidt, “Trails West” Association, Reno, presents info on an emigrant trail: “The Johnson Cutoff provides a key clue for finding Mark Twain's Lake Tahoe timber camp”. Mark Twain came through Nevada Territory (through Dayton) on the Overland Immigrant Trail in the 1860s. He and Adolph Sutro visited about the local state of affairs when they met in Dayton in the 1860s.

- May 19: Dayton Historian, Stony Tennant, lectures about life on 1860s pioneer trails, including wood cutter roads in the Pine nut ranges south of Dayton, Indian and emigrant trails, at 7 pm, Dayton Senior Center, 320 Old Dayton Valley Rd.

Call 775-246-3256 or 775-246-9396 for more details.